Amendment to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph immediately following the heading "Summary of the Invention" on page 4 (which was introduced by the Examiner in her Office action of June 7, 2005) as follows:

Preferred embodiments of the invention employ a physical phenomenon known to those skilled in the art as a "surface plasmon". As suggested by this term, a plasmon involves "plasma" consisting of electrons separated from ion cores in a conducting medium. This plasma can form a charge density wave, and when this wave is localized close to the surface of the conducting medium, the resulting excitation is termed a "surface plasmon". Incident electromagnetic radiation can excite a surface plasmon under certain resonance conditions (known as "modes") that conserve energy and momentum. Suitably positioned features (such as slits and ridges) facilitate the coupling of incident electromagnetic radiation to certain surface plasmon modes. The electromagnetic field of the excited surface plasmon then gives rise to optical output, which is ~~than~~ then advantageously radiated away an emission region and may be directed ~~to~~ onto, for example, a recording medium.